

ALBIO SIRES
13TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
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EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SIRES](http://www.house.gov/sires)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3013

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

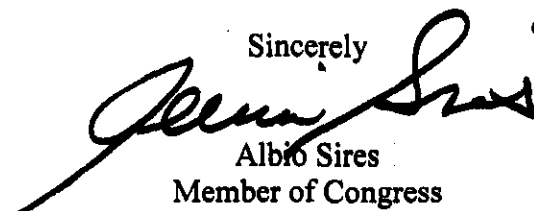
Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to share my support for allocating the 10 MHz of the 700 MHz spectrum, known as the D Block, for public safety use and request that you oppose a commercial auction of the D Block. Reallocating this part of the radio spectrum for public safety use would be critical in enabling the public safety community to develop and implement a nationwide public safety interoperable mobile broadband network, necessary for securing the safety of the entire United States. Additionally, as my District is said to contain the most dangerous stretch of two miles in the country due to the number of at-risk sites, advancing the establishment of such a network is in the greatest interest of my constituents.

A coalition of organizations representing a wide array of state and local officials, including the National Governors Association, police chiefs, fire chiefs and other public safety personnel, have all arrived at the position that redistributing the D Block for public safety use is the best way to at last build a concrete national interoperable communications network that allows for real-time information sharing through high speed video and data. The dedication of 20 MHz of the 700 MHz set aside solely for the public safety community, would finally designate the appropriate amount of space on the spectrum to meet the daily needs of firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel, as well as increased capacity during declared emergencies.

It is within the best interest of our homeland security to implement an interoperable mobile broadband network for public safety. After the unsuccessful attempt of a commercial auction of the D Block back in 2008, it is my hope that the Commission now considers the reallocation of the D Block for public safety use to expedite such a network.

Sincerely


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

The allocation of spectrum for public safety and the development of funding resources to make use of this spectrum present unique challenges both for Congress and the Commission. The National Broadband Plan (NBP) provided guidance for moving forward with these objectives, including a recommendation that Congress create funding resources to support both network construction and ongoing operations.

This is vital. Congressional funding is necessary for building a mobile broadband public safety network and delivering on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. The Commission has acted on NBP recommendations within its statutory authority, establishing – with the help of experts from the Department of Homeland Security and other federal partners – the Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC) to guide technical standards development and help create a solid foundation for nationwide interoperable cooperation. This is necessary to ensure that a new network achieves the 9/11 Commission goal of interoperability. The Commission also recently provided waivers to twenty-one jurisdictions, authorizing them to initiate early build-outs of public safety broadband networks using the 10 MHz of the 700 MHz spectrum licensed to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust, subject to interoperability requirements.

Under current law, the Commission is obligated to auction the 700 MHz D Block spectrum for commercial use. I have directed the Commission's staff to provide assistance to Congress as it considers legislative action related to this matter.

Regardless of how much spectrum ultimately is allocated to public safety in addition to its current 24 MHz, I am committed to working with Congress, public safety officials, and the wireless community to facilitate creation of networks that protect Americans and prevent

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tragedies that can be avoided by better communications among first responders. Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

Julius Genachowski